

## **Autistic Spectrum Disorder Review – scoping paper**

### **Background**

This review was requested by the Cabinet Member as a result of the apparent high levels of diagnosis in Rotherham. This was identified in a report to the Cabinet member and was explored further in a position paper to the Health Select Commission in July 2012. It was agreed at this meeting that a review would be required and this would investigate the steady increase in diagnoses in the last 10 years.

<b>Subject of the review</b>	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
<b>Type of review</b>	Full Review
<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Judy Dalton
<b>Review group members</b>	Cllrs Wootton, Beaumont, Roche, Kaye and Pitchley, Russell Wells
<b>Officer contacts</b>	Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager ext: 22769 Steve Mulligan, Principal Educational Psychologist ext: 22759
<b>Purpose of the review</b>	The four main aims of the review are to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reasons for the higher diagnosis rates</li> <li>• Services required at diagnosis stage and after</li> <li>• 16+ support and transition</li> <li>• Budget implications</li> </ul>
<b>Key questions and areas to focus on – based on previous member discussions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is referral and diagnosis achieved?</li> <li>• What is the need for the two different routes?</li> <li>• Have the NHS partners looked at reasons for high rates?</li> <li>• What is the cost to the authority?</li> <li>• What support services are provided? Are there any gaps?</li> <li>• Is this issue reflected in the JSNA?</li> <li>• Visits to Winter Hill school and Aughton Early Years</li> <li>• What is the experience of parents of Autistic children</li> <li>• Transition periods – aligning adults and CYPS.</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated outcome(s)</b>	Better understanding of patterns in Rotherham, leading to development of appropriate support and assistance to families affected by Autism. Effective use of existing resources.
<b>What is the potential impact of the review on</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents</li> <li>• Equality issues eg access to services, vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Health inequalities</li> <li>• Adding value to the organisation</li> <li>• Partners</li> <li>• Any other key groups?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater understanding of the issue will provide better services for a group of vulnerable people</li> <li>• Parents and childrens needs being met</li> <li>• More seamless provision of services</li> </ul>
<b>Links to the council’s corporate plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensuring care and protection are available for those people who need it most</li> <li>○ Helping to create safe and healthy communities.</li> </ul>

<b>Methodology</b>	Four separate meetings – one for each of the objectives of the review.
<b>Press &amp; publicity</b>	There is potentially a positive message to be drawn from this – Rotherham is ahead of the game in terms of diagnosing and supporting children with Autism. Potential for Jane Asher (?) to be involved in publicising the final report – contact through National Autistic Society.
<b>Key background papers (to be considered in advance of evidence gathering meeting)</b>	Paper to Health Select Commission July 12
<b>Written evidence to be provided by</b>	Steve Mulligan
<b>Oral evidence to be provided by</b>	CAMHS CDC Autism Communications Team National Autistic Society Health Visitors Heads of schools – secondary, primary, special Parents and Carers Forum Parents
<b>Potential partners</b>	As above
<b>Resources required</b>	Time from Scrutiny and CYPS staff
<b>Timetable</b>	<b>October 2012 to January 2013</b>
<b>Reporting mechanism</b>	OSMB – Cabinet – HWB Board